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## Some records of *Cordylura* (Dipt., Scatophagidae) from Surrey and Middlesex

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Most of the nine British species of *Cordylura* are scarce and four are confined to Scotland. The only species given in the *Victoria County History for Surrey* (1902) is *C. pubera* taken at Battersea Fields. Of more recent date, Mr Parmenter in his exhaustive survey of the diptera of Bookham Common, Surrey, (*London Naturalist* 1949 and 1959) was only able to record *C. pubera*, of which a single specimen was taken in 1937. A key to the genus is provided by Mr Collin (1958, *Trans. Soc. Brit. Ent.* Vol. **13**: Pt. 3) and with the exception of *C. pubera*, the county records given below are not mentioned by Collin.

*C. pubera* F. This species was found commonly among sedges in an alder wood at Wotton, Surrey, on the 11th June 1966. A single male was swept from chalk grassland at Sheepleas, Horsley, Surrey, on the 21st May, 1966. The latter capture was somewhat unexpected since my other specimens are from marshy ground as at Wotton viz. North Nibley, Gloucestershire, in May, 1965, at an open streamside spot with abundant *Caltha palustris* L. (Marsh Marigold) and at Kinross, Rhum National Nature Reserve, Inverness-shire, in May, 1966, where specimens were swept from mixed vegetation at the edge of a marshy wood. Mr L. Parmenter informs me that several *pubera* were found about flooded pits at Send, Surrey, on 27th June, 1948, and that Mr A. M. Low captured both sexes of this species at Boston Manor, Middlesex, on 30th June and 1st July, 1938.

*C. pudica* Mg. A male was swept from marshy ground in a clearing within a valley willow wood on Chobham Common, Surrey, on the 6th June, 1965. Collin mentions only Suffolk and Warwickshire in England but says that the species is found in various localities in Inverness-shire.

*C. ciliata* Mg. A number of specimens of this species were swept from marginal vegetation, especially sedges, at Bolder Lake, Oakham Common, Surrey, and also from a patch of sedges surrounded by willow, in early July 1965, Collin found this species in southerly counties and gives records for Sussex, Hants., Hereford, Gloucester, Cambs., Suffolk and Norfolk, but he suggests that it has a still wider distribution. Mr Parmenter tells me that he has also taken *ciliata* in the Huntingdon fens.

*C. picipes* Mg. (= *biseta* Lw.). A few were taken with the *C. ciliata* on Oakham Common, Surrey. Collin found this to be an uncommon species with records from only Cambs., Hereford, and Suffolk.

*C. impudica* Rdi. Collin found this to be not at all an uncommon species but the only record I have is from Middlesex. This is worth

placing on record since the single male taken on the 1st May 1966, was obtained from a damp clearing in one of the few remnants of woodland in the county, at Hatton Cross, near Hounslow.

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## Notes and Observations

**BUTTERFLIES ATTRACTED TO LIGHT IN 1966.**—At 12.30 BST on the night of 13/14th July 1966, a small tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae* L.) came through my window at the school at Romsey, Hants, where I work, and fluttered round my table lamp for some considerable time until, in its own interests, I boxed it. I released it in the grounds of the school on the ensuing morning. There is perhaps nothing unusual about such an occurrence, and in fact I recorded a similar instance, *Ent. Rec.* 76: 246. Rather more startling is the following instance for which, with others adduced, we perhaps have to blame the shocking weather over the period in question. In no instance was the trap set before sundown.

In the early morning of 11th August, when I checked the contents of my mercury vapour light trap which I was operating in South Cornwall, I was astonished to find therein a fresh female green-veined white (*Pieris napi* L.), which I released. It is perhaps worthy of note that on this and the following day under uniformly overcast skies, and even light rain, I saw the three common Pierids all flying freely. This was after a fortnight of very bad weather during which the only good day was the 8th, and there was more bad weather to come.

Subsequent observations in each case before the trap light was quenched (always between 7.00 and 7.30) on the morning in question, were as follows: In South Cornwall on 17th August, a male purple hairstreak (*Thecla quercus* L.) resting on a window pane in proximity to the trap: at my house in Somerset on 26th August, a male wall brown (*Pararge megera* L.) perched on the electric flex: on 27th August, the same individual (I recognized it by a damaged hindwing) basking on the wall just above the trap.

Finally, on the morning last mentioned viz. 27th August, while sorting out the contents of the trap (all active with this one exception), I found therein a dead small tortoiseshell.—I. R. P. HESLOP, "Belfield", Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. 9.ix.1966.

**FURTHER NOTES ON THE ISLE OF CANNA LEPIDOPTERA.**—The season here this summer has been very interesting. The moth trap has produced the highest ever total for a single month (August, 4,962) and has already passed the highest total for any year (previous best 1956, 7,910). *Atalanta, cardui* and *gamma* have bred freely on the island: so apparently has *Laphygma exigua*, Hübn., two perfectly fresh specimens appeared in the trap on 1st September. *Eurois occulta* L. occurred on 23rd August. It would be interesting to know whether there are any other reports of this species and also of *exigua*. Altogether, three new species have been taken here this summer and five other species that had only occurred as single specimens previously. It has been the best August since that of 1947.

I am now releasing locally bred *atalanta* and *cardui* marked with olive green cellulose paint.—J. L. CAMPBELL, Isle of Canna. 3.ix.1966.